

MINUTES OF MEETING OF BOARD OF PUBLIC WORKS OF JANUARY 3RD, 1934.

The Board of Public Works met in the offices of the Governor, at Annapolis, Maryland, on January 3rd, 1934.

## Present:

Albert C. Ritchie, Governor.  
Wm. S. Gordy, Jr., Comptroller.

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Mr. Laurence Hall Fowler, Architect for the Memorial Hall of Records at Annapolis, attended the meeting. Mr. Fowler took up with the Board the procedure to be followed in connection with the securing of a grant from the Federal Government in connection with the construction of the Memorial Hall of Records and the awarding of a contract for the construction of the building.

The following resolution was passed:-

"RESOLVED, That the proposal of the Consolidated Engineering Company, Baltimore, Maryland, for the construction of the Memorial Hall of Records at Annapolis, in the amount of \$191,300.00, inclusive of all alternates, be accepted, subject to approval of the Public Works Administration of the United States."

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The following resolution was passed:-

"RESOLVED, that Rosewood State Training School be authorized to enter into a contract with Davis Construction Company for the erection of a Dormitory Building at the Institution in accordance with proposals submitted by that company, in the amount of \$126,250.00, payment to be made from money appropriated to the Institution in the General Bond Issue of 1933 to be supplemented by a grant of \$34,000.00, approved by the Public Works Administration of the United States Government."

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The following letter from Mr. F. W. Besley, State Forester, was read and considered:-

STATE DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

December 28th, 1933.

Board of Public Works,  
Annapolis, Maryland.

Gentlemen:-

I am requesting the approval of the Board of Public Works for the purchase of two tracts of land to be added to our existing State Forests, described as follows:

(1.) Approximately 1,410 acres, all woodland, adjoining our Potomac Forest on Backbone Mountain, extending down the slopes of Backbone Mountain to the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, between Swanton and Frankville, as shown on Map No. 1. herewith enclosed. This tract is owned by Strecker Bros. Company of Marietta, Ohio. They have given us an option on the tract at \$1.50 per acre, subject to our survey, which is the lowest price that we can secure.

The land has been examined by the District Forester, who reports that it is all wooded, mostly covered over with a young tree growth with a few areas of merchantable timber. I can fully recommend its purchase at the price given since it is adjacent to and similar to other lands we have purchased at approximately the same price.

(2) Approximately 65 acres, adjoining the Seth Demonstration Forest, about five miles southeast of Easton, which was given to the State by Mrs. Seth as a memorial to her husband, General Joseph B. Seth. This is the remainder of the 130 acre tract, of which 65 acres were given to the State and 65 acres retained by Mrs. Seth. Mrs. Seth hoped to give the entire tract to the State, but due to shrinkage of the estate left by her husband, she feels under the necessity of selling it and is offering it to the State at \$10. per acre, which is considerably less than the going price of land of this character in that locality. It is important for the State to acquire it, not only to increase the size of the Demonstration Forest, but in acquiring this additional acreage, all of which is wooded, it will give us possession of the entire block of woodland extending from the county road out to farm lands, and thereby making protection more certain. The location of the land is shown on Map No. 2. enclosed herewith. The 65 acre tract is similar to that which the State now owns, and is recommended for purchase.

Money is now available in the Forest Reserve Fund for the purchase of this land. It is hoped that early approval can be given for these purchases, to enable us to make the surveys and have the titles searched by the State Law Department within the option limits.

It should be added that purchases of State Forests made at this time will enable us to extend the operation of our Civilian Conservation

Corps camps for their immediate improvement, and we should acquire as much land as we can not only to take advantage of favorable price conditions, but also to take advantage of the very extraordinary opportunity of putting these lands immediately under intensive management.

Very truly yours,

/s/ F. W. Besley.

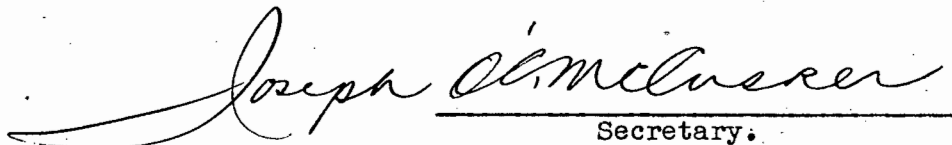
State Forester.

FWB:r  
Encl. 2.

The authority requested by the Department for the purchase of the land described was granted.

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There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary.